is recognized as an image portion of high density, as shown in Fig. 4B. Therefore, for the image viewed with the X-ray film held to the schaukasten, the sensitivity of the output brightness (logarithmic value) to the value of an input signal becomes lower in the low signal value region corresponding to the image portion of low density than in other intermediate and high signal value regions.

A1 CONT.

Pages 12-13, paragraph bridging pages:

The output brightness characteristic of the brightness circuit 11 is a characteristic in which the logarithmic value Y (= log(L)) of the output brightness L becomes smaller as the value of the input image signal S becomes larger, as shown Fig. 2A. A rate of change $|G_{0\text{-}a}|$ (=$|\Delta Y/\Delta S|$: absolute value of the differentiated value of Y with respect to the differentiated value of S), which represents a change in the logarithmic value Y of the output brightness L with respect to a change in the image signal S, in the low signal value region of the image signal S ($0 \leq S \leq S_a$) is set smaller than a rate of change $|G_{a\text{-}100}|$ in the intermediate and high signal value region of the image signal ($S_a < S$)($|G_{0\text{-}a}| < |G_{a\text{-}100}|$). Note that the boundary value S_a between the low signal value region and the intermediate and high signal value region is set to a value in the range of the following Eq. 1'. For instance, it is set to $S_a = 0.18 \times S_{max}$ where S_{max} represents the maximum value of the image signal in the output brightness characteristic.

A2

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An image display method, which has an output brightness characteristic in which a logarithmic value of an output brightness becomes smaller as a value of an input image signal becomes larger, for displaying a visible image that said input image signal

A3